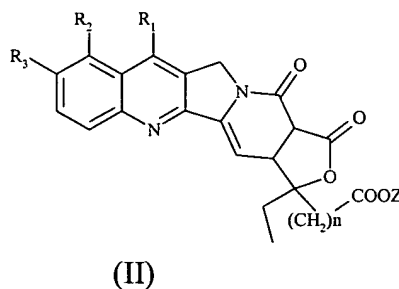


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-22. (Canceled).

23. (New) A compound of formula (II)



where:

R₁ is hydrogen or a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group, in which R₄ is hydrogen or a straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl or C₁-C₅ alkenyl group, or a C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a C₆-C₁₄ aryl group, or a straight or branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with an (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups can optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, and -NR₆R₇, where R₆ and R₇, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the -

CONR₈R₉ group, where R₈ and R₉, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl; or

R₄ is a (C₆-C₁₀) aroyl or (C₆-C₁₀) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR₁₀R₁₁, where R₁₀ and R₁₁, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl; or:

R₄ is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or

R₄ is a glycosyl residue;

R₅ is hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkenyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl, C₆-C₁₄ aryl, straight or branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl;

R₂ and R₃, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy;

n = 1 or 2,

Z is selected from hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl;

the N₁-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

24. (New) A compound according to claim 23, in which, in formula (II), n is 1.

25. (New) A compound according to claim 24, selected from the group consisting of:

{ 10-[(E)-(ter-butoxyimino)methyl]-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl}acetic acid

(10-{(E)-[(benzyloxy)imino]methyl}-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid

(3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]
indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid, and
ter-butylic ester of (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]
indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid.

26. (New) A process for the preparation of a formula (II) compound according to claim 23
in which R₁ is hydrogen, comprising:

- a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, optionally substituted
with R₂ and R₃ have the meanings as in formula (II), to yield the derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;
- b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain
the opening of the E ring;
- c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b);
- d) treatment of the derivative obtained in step c) with PDC with formation of the E ring
and, if so desired;
- e) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

27. (New) A process for the preparation of a formula (II) compound according to claim 23
in which R₁ is a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group, comprising:

- a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with R₂ and R₃, to 7-(di-
methoxymethyl)camptothecin;
- b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(di-methoxymethyl)camptothecin,
optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of R₂ and R₃, to yield a derivative 19,20-
dihydroxy;
- c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain
opening of the E ring;

- d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);
- e) treatment of the derivative obtained in step d) with PDC with formation of the E ring;
- f) treatment of the compound obtained in step e) with an oxime of formula R_4ONH_2 and, if so desired,
- g) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 23 in an admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient.